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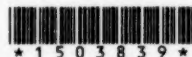
**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms
of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Note verbale dated 9 February 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to enclose herewith the statement by the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the seventieth anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp and the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

The Permanent Mission requests that the statement be published as a document of the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council and in all official languages of the United Nations.

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**Statement of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation in connection with the seventieth
anniversary of the liberation of prisoners from the
concentration camp at Oświęcim and the International Day
of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the
Holocaust**

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hereby resolves:

1. To adopt the statement of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the seventieth anniversary of the liberation of prisoners from the concentration camp at Oświęcim and the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.
2. To transmit the statement to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Parliament.
3. To transmit the statement to the Senate of the Republic of Poland, proposing that it should be supported.
4. The present decision shall enter into force upon the day of its adoption.

Chairman of the Federation Council of the
Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
V.I. Matvienko

**Statement of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly
in connection with the seventieth anniversary of the
liberation of prisoners from the concentration camp at
Oświęcim and the International Day of Commemoration in
Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust**

Seventy years ago, on 27 January 1945, the Red Army liberated prisoners from Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp near the Polish town of Oświęcim. The wholesale destruction in the Nazi death camps of civilians and prisoners of war from a number of ethnic groups — primarily Jews, Gypsies and Slavs — was without historical precedent. On this day we mourn and pay tribute to the memory of those who were ruthlessly annihilated by the Nazi machine.

It is no coincidence that 27 January — the day of the liberation of Oświęcim by the Red Army — was declared the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust 10 years ago by resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations. In the view of the President of the Russian Federation, the unanimous adoption of this resolution expressed the steadfast will of the international community to impart to future generations the truth of the barbaric crimes of Nazism and to protect humanity from the evils of xenophobia, racism and extremism.

The General Assembly resolution on Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, adopted on the initiative of the Russian Federation on 18 December 2014 at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, was intended to preserve historical memory and prevent any attempt to distort or falsify the outcome of the Second World War for political reasons. This is not just our duty, but the duty of the international community to those who gave their lives in the fight against Nazism and for freedom and the triumph of humanist ideals. It is the duty of all States to future generations, who must learn what that great victory cost.

The birth at that time and in the heart of European civilization of a fanatical theory of racial superiority yet shows again that neither technological prowess nor a highly developed culture are guarantees against xenophobia and racism. Humanity must remain vigilant.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation notes with great concern that attempts are being made over and over again to falsify our common history, to lay equal blame for unleashing the Second World War on Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union and to place both the Nazi executioners and their victims on an equal footing. Even modern-day Europe remains a fertile ground for manifestations of aggression and intolerance on the grounds of race or ethnicity, for trampling on the rights of ethnic minorities and requiring them to assimilate, for making insults against religious symbols and for maintaining the shameful institution of so-called non-citizens.

It is deeply unfortunate that attempts are being made to involve in this destructive process the population of Ukraine, whose head of State has allowed himself to publicly accuse the Soviet Union of "invading" Germany and Ukraine, thereby insulting, first and foremost, the Ukrainian people, who made a unique contribution to the common victory and, in addition, suffered more than other peoples from the Nazi aggression. It is disappointing that the unacceptable and absurd views, lacking any historical basis or moral justification, which are held by members of the current Ukrainian leadership have not yet been condemned by the leaders of major European countries, whose silence recalls the

position of their predecessors concerning the Nazi aggressors on the eve of the Second World War.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation categorically condemns such insulting and inflammatory rhetoric and calls on those State and civil society figures who share genuine universal human values, without exceptions or double standards, and first and foremost, on colleagues in the parliaments of European countries:

Not to permit insults to the memory of the millions of victims who died during the Second World War due to the crimes of the Nazis and their allies, and to categorically condemn any related plans, particularly acts;

To take action against the glorification of former members of the Waffen SS and former Nazis, neo-Nazis, Fascists and Nazi collaborators (members of the Stepan Bandera group) and against all forms of collaborationism and support for Nazism;

To bring to justice those who deny the existence of the Holocaust and genocide in relation to "non-Aryan" peoples, falsify historical facts, insult the memory of the liberators and glorify the executioners.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is convinced that only the collective will of the peoples of the world can stand against the common threat of neo-Nazism and political extremism at State level when power is gained by politicians and forces that profess nationalistic ideas and condone the crimes of the past.

The historic lessons of the Holocaust must be neither forgotten nor falsified.

Federation Council of the
Federal Assembly of the
Russian Federation